


**To:** Adam Smith[Smith@lpcattorney.org]; Schroeder, William[Schroeder.William@epa.gov]; Bill Simon[wsimon@frontier.net]; Ty Churchwell[TChurchwell@tu.org]; Tom Schillaci[schillaci.tom@gmail.com]; Terrence Chatwin[terrence.chatwin@inap.com.au]; Brad Dodd[Wdodd@blm.gov]; Wall, Dan[wall.dan@epa.gov]; Jon Tuthill[tuthill@frontier.net]; rrudy@ene.com[rrudy@ene.com]; Pat Willits[willits@independence.net]; Pam Starr[sjrcd@hotmail.com]; Schmittiel, Paula[Schmittiel.Paula@epa.gov]; Rob Runkel[runkel@usgs.gov]; Samantha Wright[swright@watchnewspapers.com]; San Juan County[sanjuancounty@frontier.net]; Scott Roberts[scottwrs@gmail.com]; scott.schultz@state.co.us[scott.schultz@state.co.us]; Steve Pavlick[spkeaton@hotmail.com]; Way, Steven[way.steven@epa.gov]; Steve Renner[steven.renner@state.co.us]; Tom Grant[tagrant@mountainstudies.org]; ; Warren Rider[Warren.C.Rider@bhpbilliton.com]; Wally Erickson[wally.erickson@state.co.us]; Russell, Carol[Russell.Carol@epa.gov]  
**From:** Peter Butler  
**Sent:** Fri 3/14/2014 8:07:58 PM  
**Subject:** FW: CDPHE & EPA Letters  
[CDPHE EPA response 2014 02-03.pdf](#)  
[Rob Issue Ltr Upper Animas 2013 10 25.pdf](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Butler [mailto:butlerpeter2@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:52 PM  
To: Peter Butler  
Subject: FW: CDPHE & EPA Letters

Dear Stakeholders - Rob Robinson asked to have this email and attachments forwarded to our email list.

Peter Butler  
970-259-0986

Peter,

Attached files have scanned letters from CDPHE and EPA in response to my letter of early December. My original letter also is attached. I would appreciate your forwarding this message with attachments to ARSG.

Recall that I and about 15 others petitioned the agencies to take more aggressive action on cleaning up mining contamination of the upper Animas River watershed. Not surprisingly both agencies responded that they would continue with what are trivial cleanup actions and endless monitoring. At least, the agencies now know there are some citizens not satisfied with the lack of progress.

Meanwhile those same agencies have been aggressively cleaning up other mining contaminated watersheds with success in returning macro-invertebrates and fish, and including new designations of gold medal fisheries. I am saddened by both the continuing wreckage on Animas wildlife and the incongruous difference in cleanup actions in the Animas compared to other watersheds.

I strongly urge the members of ARSG individually or as a group to pursue

National Priority Listing of the Animas mining district. After all, twenty years of cleaning up around the edges and casting around for magic solutions is not working. Superfund could bring the funding and legal resources to get the job done as it has in other watersheds. If this means going after Principle Responsible Parties such as Kinross, so be it. The mining industry has left no lasting legacy in the watershed except the ongoing contamination of their abandoned mines. The mineral resources the miners removed from the area turned to riches elsewhere.

Some in the local community continue to veto Superfund; however, the successful remediation and minimal community impacts in those other watersheds belie the local Superfund bogeyman. Superfund designation and resources are more likely than current actions to bring life back to the Animas River.

Please do not hesitate to respond with any comments or questions.

Regards - Rob Robinson